

Dear parents and carers,

After what we can only describe as the most turbulent of times, we are finally as a country, city and school community getting back towards some type of normality. The pandemic crisis has affected us all and we hope that this correspondence finds you well and free from the heartache and stresses that this virus has brought. I must thank you all for your efforts during this crisis. The vast majority of our parents and carers have kept open excellent channels of communication and worked with us throughout.

Now that Covid 19 seems to be under more control, the infection rate has dropped and the country is taking steps to get back to a 'normality', the DFE and other Government departments have directed schools to reopen fully for the start of the autumn term.

I do apologise for the amount of information contained within this pack, but I hope to reassure you and answer any questions you may have about your child's return to school.

Your Child will commence school on Wednesday 2nd September 2020

From September all pupils have been directed by the Government to return to school.

North View Academy reopens to pupils on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 and all pupils who have attended previously will be expected to return on this date. Transport will be provided for those that are not exempt and your local authority will inform you of the transport arrangements for your child.

If your child is new to North View Academy then the date given above is the identified start date for your child. The local authorities have been informed of this date. Transport for those that qualify will be provided from this date by the local authority and they will inform you of the transport arrangements for your child.

School will be different. We have and will continue to work as guided by the Government & DFE, in a way that is Covid19-responsive, in order to ensure children, staff, parents and visitors are safe coming/going and in school. Their guidance advises a system of controls that relate to 'prevention' & to 'response to any infection' Therefore a number of changes and identified measures have been implemented, some of these have been in place throughout and some will be implemented from September.

In terms of 'prevention' guidance states the following:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting.
2. Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
6. Where necessary, wear appropriate PPE.

Numbers 1 - 4 will be in place in school at all times.

Number 5 must be properly considered and settings must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances. Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

For your information, other measures include:

NORTH VIEW ACADEMY Headteacher: Mr G Mellefont
ST LUKE'S ROAD, SUNDERLAND, NE24 2HP Tel 0191 7070122
E-mail northview@wiseacademies.co.uk Website northview.wiseacademies.co.uk

Working in bubbles

- We have established three 'bubbles' or groups.
- As guided, there are no more than thirty pupils in each.
- The pupils and staff in each bubble will work, play and eat together.
- Pupils will be using the 1metre distancing guidance. Staff will maintain the 2metre social distancing guidance whenever possible. As you will appreciate, with SEN pupils this will be difficult, as sometimes they will need close support and guidance, for example, when they become upset, anxious and agitated they may need leading by the hand or guided into a safe, calm space.
Parents who may have concerns regarding this distancing, may contact school & discuss this with staff.
- The bubbles will have their own lunch and break areas.
- Each bubble will have their own toilet facilities; these will be sanitised at very regular intervals throughout the school day.
- All bubbles will use the school one way system to move around school, though movement will be kept to a minimum.
- The one way system will be followed by all pupils both on entry to and exit from school.

Other aspects of school operation

- **Transport & Entry**
 - Home-school transport is overseen by the Local Authority/Together for Children and they will be responsible for the safe transfers of pupils to and from school.
 - Local authority transport (taxis & minibuses) must use the designated bay at the front of the school and keep pupils on board until directed by staff on duty. These children will enter school via the **staff and visitor entrance** when directed to do so.
 - Parents/carers who transport their child by vehicle must use the one- way queuing system with LA transport vehicles and await staff instruction. Your child will enter school via the **staff and visitor entrance** when asked to do so by staff on duty. **Please do not park in any of the school car parks.**
 - Children who arrive on foot must line up at the **pupil entrance**. Please follow the social distancing markers in place every 2metres. Cycles and scooters will not be kept inside school premises but may be kept in the shelter area provided. These will need to be secured and please note they are left at your own risk.
 - Please be patient as pupils will be directed to enter school in small numbers to minimise contact & this may take longer than previously.
- **Transport & Exit**
 - Transport vehicles, **both parent & local authority provided**, must use the queue system in the designated bay at the front of the school to wait for their children.
 - Parents collecting children on foot, will use the same exit as they did to drop pupils at the beginning of the day. They must continue to follow the social distancing markers.
 - Please be patient as pupils will be called for via our PA system from their bubbles, individually for parent collection and collectively for those on LA transport & this may also take longer than previously.
- **Attendance**
 - In March when the coronavirus outbreak was increasing the Government made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at their education setting. As circumstances have changed, the Government has directed all children to return to their education setting to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Attendance is therefore mandatory once more from the beginning of the autumn term. This means the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:
 - parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at their education setting where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
 - settings' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
 - Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, we would immediately offer them access to remote education.
 - Where children and young people are not able to attend their setting as parents are following clinical or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.
 - All other pupils must attend their setting, but settings should bear in mind the potential concerns of pupils, students, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and put the right support in place to address this. This may include pupils who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary; those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus,

including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes.

- **If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, please do not hesitate to contact us and discuss your concerns with school staff.**
- We recognise, some children with EHC plans will need preparation for their return to full provision. This may include approaches that the school & local authorities would normally use to enable children with SEND, who have spent time out of education to return to full time attendance, for instance, visits to the setting and part time phased return. Again, **if you feel this applies, please contact us to discuss your concerns**
- **Staffing**
 - All staff at North View will be present to welcome & support your child's return to school in September.
 - All staff are fully aware, will adhere to & be completely compliant with all risk assessments; health and safety protocols; cleaning regimes and Covid19 procedures
 - Recruitment of new staff will continue in line with guidance
 - Visiting professionals, though kept to a minimum, will also adhere to all Covid 19 protocols
- **Safeguarding**
 - All elements of safeguarding children will apply in line with [Keeping children safe in education](#), and will refer to the [COVID-19: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers guidance](#)
 - All Designated safeguarding leads are fully aware of protocols introduced
 - All staff will continue to follow safeguarding procedures
- **Catering**
 - Our kitchen will be fully open from the start of the autumn term
 - Normal legal requirements will apply about provision of food to all pupils who want it, including for those eligible for benefits-related free school meals or universal infant free school meals
 - Our kitchen will comply with the [guidance for food businesses on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- **Risk assessments**
 - all pupils will have an individual risk assessment (attached at annex to this letter) which will outline any risk concerns and actions
 - These risk assessments link directly with our behaviour policy addendum applicable during the Covid 19 pandemic (this is also has attached also within the annexe to this letter)

Behaviour

- We have created an addendum to our behaviour policy. This identifies explicit expectations for behaviour and explains clearly for parents/carers & pupils the responses school will implement.
- As new measures are in place and certain new behaviours, for example movement restrictions; distancing; hygiene protocols, are expected in order to keep pupils, staff and anyone attending the premises safe so we must plan accordingly.
- We are committed to working with pupils and parents to ensure that behaviour expectations are clearly understood, and consistently supported, taking account of individual needs and **if you have any questions/concerns please discuss these with us.**
- Government guidance identifies disciplinary powers that schools currently have, including exclusion, remain in place. Permanent exclusion would continue to only be used as a last resort. As in 'normal' times, if a child is at risk of exclusion and that child has a social worker, with a social worker, the social worker will be informed and involved in relevant conversations.
- Any disciplinary exclusion of a pupil, even for short periods of time, will be consistent with the relevant legislation.
- The behaviour policy addendum is attached within the annexe of this letter. **Please read this policy.**

Curriculum and Assessment

Our paramount aim is to get our pupils settled; back into a routine; feeling safe & secure and to re-establish a work ethic that may have been negatively influenced by time away from school.

We will continue to deliver our curriculum but please be assured that as we do so, we will continue to fully support your child not only in their academic needs but also their emotional, social and mental health needs, which may be significantly affected by recent events and their return to school.

The Department for Education has indicated that statutory testing will take place at KS1 and KS2 in 2021. We will keep parents & carers updated on this and any changes/decisions made.

They are also asking that schools meet the following key expectations if considering revisions to their school curriculum for academic year 2020/21:

- **Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content**
- **Aim to return to the setting's normal curriculum in all subjects by summer term 2021**
- **Plan on the basis of the educational needs of pupils**
- **Develop any remote education so that it can be integrated into school curriculum planning if necessary (eg local lockdown)**

With regard to these & our priority - to support our pupils appropriate to their individual needs, from September we will continue to deliver our curriculum to engage, ignite curiosity and foster a desire to learn. We will assess, monitor & evaluate, throughout the autumn term, gently without pressure, to identify gaps in core knowledge and intervene with additional support to fill these. Reading, literacy skills & numeracy will remain our priority in learning, and will be taught explicitly and through the other curriculum areas. For our new pupils, they too will be assessed to determine baselines of attainment and identify the progress path to take.

A copy of the long term school curriculum plan for academic year 2020-21, will be available on the school website.

School risk assessments and contingency

Whole school risk assessments will be updated and followed for the beginning of the autumn term 2020 as will all contingency planning, as set out in the DFE guidance, which you can also view from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Once again I apologise for the amount of information contained in this letter and the annexe papers, but I hope it has managed to allay any fears & anxieties and reassured you in how we intend to get your children back into school in the safest way possible.

Yours faithfully

Gary Mellefont
Head Teacher
North View Academy